

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From **Thursday**, July 23. to **Saturday**, July 25. 1713.

The Mercator just, in laying the Delusions, which are spread among the People in the Case of the French Trade, at the Door of our Parties and Divisions.

It must astonish the People, who have been so Deluded, when they read over the Two last Mercator's, and see the prodigious Exportation of Goods to France.

The Unreasonableness of Rejecting such a Commerce.

The End and Reason of Trade.

The Case stated between the Mercator and the SCHEME.

One brings Vouchers for all it says, and refers to them for the Proof; the other affirms falsely, and speaks Partially with Design.

PErhaps some may take it ill, that the *MERCATOR*, who, in all things, recommends Impartiality and Calmness in Judging of the Arguments, which he makes use of, should so often mention the Parties and Persons, who concern themselves in these Matters of Trade, and who Impose upon, and spread Delusions among the People.

But if the thing were duly considered in it self, and the grossness of those Delusions enquired into, together with the Designs, which appear to be carrying on by them; it would rather be wonder'd at, that this Paper should refrain the severest Satyrs, in a Case, which so much concerns the Welfare of the Commerce of Great-Britain; whereas, on the contrary, this Paper rather proceeds to prove with Clearness and undoubted Evidence, the Truth of what is laid down on one Side, than to reprove the Evil Designs of others; and as for its own part, as the Work carries such Evidence with it, as cannot be Detected of the least Fraud or Evil Design, so it is with special Tranquillity, that the Writer hears many warm People charge him with Publishing what is False, while not one Person has thought it yet worth while to prove those Falsities, or to accept the Challenge some time since given them to that Purpose, *MERCATOR*, (No. 18.)

To those, who are Impartial, and have not learnt the Common-places of their Party-Instructors, the Evidence brought to prove every thing, that is advanced here, will, it is hoped, be very Satisfactory: As to the other, (viz.) Those, who have been Imposed upon,

and who gave up their Reason to the Assurance with which it was affirm'd, That our Trade to France was of no value to England; who have been taught to say, we lose a Million per Annum, by Trading with France; that we Export nothing thither worth naming, but pay for all we take from thence with our ready Money: To these, it must be very surprizing to read the Two last *MERCATORS*.

It will necessarily be some Astonishment to them to see, that after all they have been told, we really Exported Three hundred thousand Pounds a Year to France, in English Woollen Manufactures.

One Hundred and eighteen thousand Pound a Year, in Leather, Lead, Tin, and Fish.

One Hundred and fifty thousand Pound a Year, in East-India Goods.

One Hundred thousand Pounds a Year, in Sugars, Tobacco, Cotton and Indico: And the like quantity in due Proportion, of such Goods as we bring from Africa, Turkey, Spain, Russia and other Parts, as per the Account given in the last *MERCATOR*, to which they are hereby referred.

When these things are Reflected upon with Seriousness and Impartiality, What must they say to those People, who so willingly give away all that Trade to the Dutch?

It may be wonder'd at by some, how the general Opinion came to be thus Prejudiced against the Trade with France,

France, seeing these things are so plain. Certainly, the National Antipathies between the People, cannot be the Occasion: The Reasons of the War can be no Reasons in this Case: The Ambition and Greatness of the French King, the Differences about Religion, or Civil Government, can have no share herein; the Power, or Tyranny, or call it what we please, of the French King, can be no Reason, why we should not Trade with him. No Man will say, the Pretender is concern'd in the Affair of the Commerce; there are no Jacobites in Matters of Trade: Neither will they say, that we should decline Trade with the French, because they are Papists; or, that the Ballance of Power is concerned in this Thing. The Cant of Parties is a meer Jargon in Trade, and has neither Argument or Sense in it.

Trade is no way concern'd in such Disputes as these; we Trade with the bigotted Italians, and the stupid Portuguese, the Mahometans in Turkey and Persia, the Barbarians of Africa, the Savages of America, the Heathens of China, and in general with every Body and every Nation, whom we can Trade with to Advantage. Trading Nations, tho' Christian, ought to maintain Commerce with all People they can get by. Gain is the Design of Merchandize: Trade is a Commutation of Merchantable Commodities between one Country and another, and for the mutual Profit of the Traders. The Language of Nations one to another is, *I let thee gain by me, that I may gain by thee.* This is excellently express'd in the following Lines:

Si Mihi des, tibi do, Si Nil des, Nil tibi reddo:
Hoc Verbum Do, Dat Nutrit Amicitias.

Lex Mercatoria, fol. 67.

How Trade came to be embarras'd with the Strifes and Contentions of Nations, is not easy to learn; and that it is so with us, is the great Misfortune and Disaster of this Nation: Much more is it unhappy for us, that it should be drawn into our Party-Breaches at home; and that we must Trade, or not Trade, with this or that Nation, as the Interest of this or that Party, who that Nation are well with, prevails or is suppress.

Other Nations take not these unnatural Measures; and the wisest Nations have appeared to act by contrary Rules: The Dutch knew better things all the last War; and when the Offers of an Augmentation of Troops were made to them, requiring them only to forbid Trade with France, they chose rather to decline the Benefit of the Augmentation.

Trade is an Affair of Peace: Whatever Quarrels there may be between Nations, Trade is at War with no body: Neither, if Men were wise, would they suffer War to interrupt Trade upon any account whatsoever; especially if that Trade may be carried on to Advantage. If we were able to have Traded with France all the War to our Advantage, and did not do it; by so much we weakened our selves, and assisted the French in fighting with us. If the Question were to be ask'd the Dutch, Why did you Trade with France during the War? the Answer would be, Because we got Money by them. If the Question were ask'd, Why England refus'd to Trade with France? it might be answered, Because they either knew not, or pursued not their true Interest. How it came to be so, let others answer for.

Let other Quarrels be rais'd and carried on in what Manner and for what Ends Men think fit, we can have no Friends in Trade, but where we gain by them; and we can have no Enemies in Trade, but where the Gain is on the wrong side.

Trading is a matter entirely independent in its nature, and neither consults other Interests, or depends on

any Interests, but what relate to it self. To bar up Trade with a Nation, because we differ in State-Matters and Politick Interests, is the greatest Absurdity, that a Nation can be guilty of.

If we gained NOT by them, we ought not to Trade at all, either in time of War, or time of Peace; if we DID gain, we ought never to put a Stop to that Trade, for any Occasion whatever, War or otherwise. To stop our Trade, is to make War against our selves, and help the Enemy: It is for the Nation we fight with to refuse our Commerce, not for us to refuse Trading: By getting Money from them, we become more able to fight them; and by refusing to get it, we leave the Weapons in their hands to fight with us.

These are the Reasons, why it is scarce possible to hear patiently the Earnestness, with which some People reject a Trade with France; because it is most certain, that this Trade has been, and still may be, carried on to our Advantage.

This has been made so evident, that the Opposers have nothing left to argue from, but to beg the Question, and affirm with Passion and Indecency, that we DO NOT gain by the Trade to France. This is bringing the Question to a narrow Compass. What has been done on either side towards making these Contraries appear, may be judg'd of by this short Abstract.

The *MERCATOR* has in 2 Papers given a true Draught of the Exports of one Year, viz. 1686-7, when the Trade was open; in which it is apparent, our Exports to France amount to near a Million Sterling; perhaps much more. If the Truth of Fact be question'd, it may easily be Examined. The Papers from whence it is drawn, are to be found among the Papers of the House of Commons. The Commissioners of the Customs may be enquir'd of, and the Books of the Custom-house are in being, to confute or confirm it: Let the Opposers go to work with their Search, when they please.

On the other hand, all, that the Opposers have to say, is, to produce an old spurious illegitimate Paper, call'd a *SCHEME* of the Trade; a Paper, which however they are content to depend upon, has been prov'd to be fraudulent, unfair, and untrue; leaving out by Design on one hand, and adding without Voucher or Document on the other.

Which are most likely to be a just Foundation to Calculate from, let any Person judge; whether that, which appeals to all Men for the Truth of Fact, and produces authentick and undeniable Testimony, as the *MERCATOR*; or that which is detected of Fraud, and proved Untrue, as the *SCHEME*.

But since some Men are willing still to be deceived, and would yet deceive others with that false and corrupt Account in the *SCHEME*; the next *MERCATOR* shall give it another mortal Wound, and which it can never survive; and shall produce the Copy of the Representation made to the House of Lords against it, by the Commissioners of the Custom-house: If any Person can open his Mouth for the *SCHEME* after that, it must be such a Man only, as is past being ashamed of a Confutation.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Just Published,

* * The Second Part of *FACT* against *SCANDAL*; In Answer to a Pamphlet, Intituled, A Continuation of Frauds and Abuses at St. Paul's. Printed for John Morphew, near Stationer's Hall. Where may be had the two former Books.

LONDON: Printed for BENJ. TOOKE, at the Temple-Gate; and
JOHN BARBER, on Lambeth-Hill. (Price 3 Half-pence.)